

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. PURPOSE:

1. This Chapter sets forth uniform requirements for stormwater management systems within the County of Clay. In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this Chapter or other regulations adopted by the County of Clay, the Cities of Moorhead and Dilworth, state or federal authorities, the more restrictive standard prevails.
2. The objectives of this Chapter are as follows:
 - a. To promote, preserve, and enhance the natural resources within the County of Clay from adverse or undesirable impacts occasioned by development or other activities;
 - b. To protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare of the people and property through effective stormwater quantity and quality management practices;
 - c. To regulate land development activity, land disturbing activity, or other activities that may have an adverse and/or potentially irreversible impact on stormwater quantity, water quality and/or environmentally sensitive lands and to encourage compatibility between such uses;
 - d. To establish detailed review standards and procedures for land development activities throughout the County of Clay, thereby achieving a balance between urban growth and development and the protection of water quality; and
 - e. To provide for adequate stormwater system analysis and design as necessary to protect public and private property, water quality and existing natural resources.
3. This Chapter applies in the County of Clay, Minnesota, within the Urbanized Area and to persons outside the County who are, by contract or agreement with the County, users of the County stormwater management system. Except as otherwise provided herein, the County Engineer shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this Chapter.

The Urbanized Area is defined in subsection B, below. A map of the current Urbanized Area is hereby adopted by reference and declared to be part of this Ordinance as Section 9, below. As the Urbanized Area changes based on the Adjusted Urban Area Map in conjunction with the most current United States Census, the map shall be automatically updated without necessity of further action by the County Board.

B. DEFINITIONS:

For the purpose of this Chapter, the following terms, phrases, and words, and their derivatives, shall have the meanings as stated in this section. When inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future tense. Words in plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and the word "may" is always permissive.

APPLICANT:	Any person or group that applies for a building permit, subdivision approval, zoning change, approach, utility or special use permit, stormwater plan approval, stormwater permit or any other permit which allows land disturbing activities. "Applicant" also means that person's agents, employees, and others acting under this person's or group's direction. The term "applicant" also refers to the permit holder or holders and the permit holder's agents, employees, and others acting under this person's or group's direction.
BASE FLOOD OR REGIONAL FLOOD OR 100-YEAR FLOOD:	The flood having a one percent (1%) chance or probability of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP):	Erosion and sediment control and water quality management practices that are the most effective and practicable means of controlling, preventing, and minimizing the degradation of surface water, including construction phasing, minimizing the length of time soil areas are exposed, prohibitions, and other management practices published by federal, state, or designated area-wide planning agencies or included in the "Minnesota Stormwater Manual."
BMPs:	Measures designed to: prevent pollutants from leaving a specific area; reduce/eliminate the introduction of pollutants; protect sensitive areas; or prevent the interaction between precipitation and pollutants.
BUFFER:	<p>A protective vegetated zone located adjacent to a natural resource, such as a "water of the state" that is subject to direct or indirect human alteration. Such a buffer strip is an integral part of protecting an aquatic ecosystem through trapping sheet erosion, filtering pollutants, reducing channel erosion and providing adjacent habitat.</p> <p>The buffer strip begins at the "ordinary high water mark" for wetlands and channel for rivers and streams. This start point corresponds to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) definition of a "shoreline" in Minnesota Rules 6115.0030.</p>
COUNTY:	The County of Clay or the County Board of the County of Clay.
COUNTY ENGINEER:	The County Engineer of the County of Clay or authorized agent.
CONTROL MEASURE:	A practice or combination of practices to control erosion and attendant pollution, see also definition of Best Management Practices (BMP).
COUNTY BOARD:	The County Board of the County of Clay.

DEVELOPER:	A person, firm, corporation, sole proprietorship, partnership, federal or state agency, or political subdivision thereof engaged in a land disturbance and/or land development activity.
DEVELOPMENT:	Any land disturbance activity that changes the site's runoff characteristics in conjunction with residential, commercial, industrial or institutional construction or alteration.
DISCHARGE:	The release, conveyance, channeling, runoff, or drainage, of stormwater, including snowmelt.
DRAINAGE EASEMENT:	A right to use the land of another for a specific purpose, such as a right of way for the movement of water across or under the land surface or the storage of water.
EROSION:	Removing the surface of the land by the action of water, wind, ice, or gravity. Erosion can be accelerated by the activities of man and nature.
EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN (E&S CONTROL PLAN):	A written description and/or plan indicating the number, locations, sizes, and other pertinent information about best management practice methods designed to reduce erosion of the land surface and the deposition of sediment within a waterway. An "E&S control plan" is required as part of a stormwater management plan. Both the stormwater management plan and E&S control plans are used in developing the state mandated stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP). An E&S control plan may be required for certain projects not requiring a full stormwater management plan, as outlined in this Chapter or determined necessary by the County Engineer.
EROSION CONTROL:	Refers to methods employed to prevent erosion. Examples include soil stabilization practices, horizontal slope grading, temporary or permanent cover, and construction phasing.
EXPOSED SOIL:	All areas of the construction site where the vegetation (trees, shrubs, brush, grasses, etc.) or impervious surface has been removed, thus rendering the soil more prone to erosion. This includes topsoil stockpile areas, borrow areas and disposal areas within the construction site. It does not include temporary stockpiles or surcharge areas of clean sand, gravel, concrete or bituminous, which have less stringent protection. Once soil is exposed, it is considered "exposed soil" until it meets the definition of "final stabilization".
FINAL STABILIZATION:	All soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed, and a uniform (evenly distributed, e.g., without large bare areas) perennial vegetative cover with a density of seventy percent (70%) of the cover for unpaved areas and areas not covered by permanent structures has been established, or equivalent permanent stabilization measures have been

employed. Simply sowing grass seed is not considered final stabilization. Where agricultural land is involved, such as when pipelines are built on crop or range land, final stabilization constitutes returning the land to its preconstruction agricultural use or as required by the "Minnesota Stormwater Manual."

FLOODWAY:

The channel of the watercourse and those portions of the adjoining floodplains which are reasonably required to carry and discharge the regional flood determined by the use of the 100-year flood profile and other supporting technical data in the flood insurance study.

HYDRIC SOILS:

Soils that are saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part of the soil profile.

**HYDROPHYTIC
VEGETATION:**

Macrophytic (large enough to be observed by the naked eye) plant life growing in water, soil, or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content.

**IMPERVIOUS AREA/
IMPERVIOUS SURFACE:**

A constructed hard surface that either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil, and causes water to run off the surface in greater quantities and at an increased rate of flow than existed prior to development. Examples include rooftops, sidewalks, patios, driveways, storage areas; and concrete, asphalt, or gravel parking lots and roads.

**LAND DEVELOPMENT
ACTIVITY:**

The act of subdivision or platting properties for personal use, adding value or for the purposes of resale. This includes the construction and/or demolition of buildings, structures, roads, parking lots, paved storage areas, and similar facilities.

**LAND DISTURBING
ACTIVITY:**

Any land change that may result in soil erosion from water or wind and the movement of sediments into or upon waters or lands within the County's jurisdiction, including construction, clearing and grubbing, grading, excavating, transporting and filling of land. Within the context of this Chapter, "land disturbance activity" does not mean:

1. Minor land disturbance activities such as home gardens and an individual's home landscaping, repairs, and maintenance work, which will not result in sediments entering the stormwater system.
2. Additions or modifications to existing single-family structures that result in creating under one acre of exposed soil or impervious surface and will not result in sediments entering the stormwater system.

3. Construction, installation, and maintenance of trees, fences, signs, posts, poles, and electric, telephone, cable television, utility lines or individual service connections to these utilities, which result in creating under one acre of exposed soil or impervious surface and will not result in sediments entering the stormwater system.
4. Tilling, planting, or harvesting of agricultural, horticultural, or silvicultural (forestry) crops.
5. Emergency work to protect life, limb, or property and emergency repairs, unless the land disturbing activity would have otherwise required an approved erosion and sediment control plan, except for the emergency. If such a plan would have been required, then the disturbed land area shall be shaped and stabilized in accordance with the County's requirements as soon as possible.

LANDOWNER: Any person holding title to or having a divided or undivided interest in land.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE: A practice or combination of practices to control erosion and water quality degradation.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT: Any permit or requirement enforced pursuant to the Clean Water Act as amended for the purposes of regulating stormwater discharge.

NATURAL WATER: A river, stream, pond, channel or ditch.

NONCOMPLIANCE FEE: The administrative penalty, or fee, for re-inspection of a property which may be assessed to a permittee, landowner, developer or their contractor(s) for noncompliance with the provisions and/or conditions of an approved stormwater plan and/or permit or the violation of any other provisions contained in this Chapter.

OUTLET: Any discharge point, including storm sewers, into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake or other body of surface or ground water.

OWNER OR OCCUPANT: Any person owning or using a lot, parcel of land, or premises connected to and discharging stormwater into the stormwater system of the County, and who pays for and is legally responsible for the payment of property taxes or charges made against the lot, parcel of land, building or premises, if connected to the stormwater system or who would pay or be legally responsible for such payment.

PERMANENT COVER:	Means "final stabilization". Examples include grass, gravel, asphalt, and concrete. See also: Final Stabilization.
PERMANENT DEVELOPMENT:	Any buildings, structures, landscaping and related features constructed as part of a development project approved for construction or constructed prior to the passage date hereof.
PERMANENT FACILITIES:	Those features of a stormwater management plan which are part of any natural or constructed stormwater system that requires periodic maintenance to retain their operational capabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, storm sewers, infiltration areas, detention areas, channels, streets, etc.
PERMIT:	Within the context of this rule a "permit" is a written warrant or license granted for construction, subdivision approval, or to allow land disturbing activities.
PERMITTEE:	Any person who applies for and receives approval of stormwater plan and/or permit from the County.
PERSON:	Any developer, individual, firm, corporation, partnership, franchise, association, owner, occupant of property, or agency, either public or private.
PROHIBITED DISCHARGE:	<p>A non-stormwater discharge into the stormwater system or a natural water, including, but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Debris or other materials such as grass clippings, vegetative materials, tree branches, earth fill, rocks, concrete chunks, metal, other demolition or construction materials, or structures. 2. The disposal or misuse of chemicals or any other materials that would degrade the quality of waters within the system, including, but not limited to, chemicals (fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, etc.) or petroleum based products (gasoline, oil, fuels, solvents, paints, etc.). 3. Erosion and sediment originating from a property and deposited onto County streets, private properties or into the stormwater conveyance system, including those areas not specifically covered under an approved stormwater management plan or stormwater permit. 4. Failure to remove sediments transported or tracked onto any road by vehicles or construction traffic by the end of each working day. 5. For the purposes of this Chapter, prohibited discharges do not include the following, unless information is available to indicate otherwise:

Air conditioning condensate
De-chlorinated swimming pool discharges
Discharges from potable water sources
Diverted stream flows
Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
Footing drains
Foundation drains
Individual residential car washing
Irrigation water
Landscape irrigation
Lawn watering
Rising groundwater
Springs
Street wash water
Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration
Uncontaminated pumped groundwater
Water from crawl space pumps
Water line flushing

PUBLIC STORM SEWER: A storm sewer located entirely within publicly-owned land or easements.

REGIONAL DETENTION: Detention facilities provided to serve an area outside the development boundaries. A "regional detention" site generally receives runoff from multiple stormwater sources and serves an area of approximately one quarter section.

RETENTION FACILITY: A natural or manmade structure that provides for the storage of all or a portion of stormwater runoff.

RUNOFF: The rainfall, snowmelt, dewatering, or irrigation water flowing over the ground surface and into open channels, underground storm sewers, and detention or retention ponds.

SEDIMENT: Solid material or organic material that, in suspension, is being transported or has been moved by air, water, gravity, or ice, and deposited at another location.

SEDIMENT CONTROL: The methods employed to prevent sediment from leaving the development site. Examples of sediment control practices include, but are not limited to, silt fences, sediment traps, earth dikes, drainage swales, check dams, subsurface drains, pipe slope drains, storm drain inlet protection, and temporary or permanent sedimentation basins.

SITE: The entire area included in the legal description of the parcel or other land division on which the land development or land disturbing activity is proposed in the stormwater plan or permit application.

STABILIZE:	To make the site steadfast or firm, minimizing soil movement by mulching and seeding, sodding, landscaping, placing concrete, gravel, or other measures.
STABILIZED:	The exposed ground surface after it has been covered by sod, erosion control blanket, riprap, pavement or other material that prevents erosion. Simply sowing grass seed is not considered stabilization. Ground surfaces may be temporarily or permanently stabilized. See also: Final Stabilization.
STATE:	The State of Minnesota.
STORM SEWER:	A pipe or conduit for carrying stormwater, surface runoff, and drainage, excluding sewage and industrial wastes.
STORMWATER:	Precipitation runoff, stormwater runoff, snowmelt runoff, and any other surface runoff and drainage. "Stormwater" does not include construction site dewatering.
STORMWATER DETENTION:	Temporary storage of stormwater runoff in ponds, parking lots, depressed grassy areas, rooftops, buried underground tanks, etc., for future or controlled release. Used to delay and attenuate flow.
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT:	The planned set of public policies and activities undertaken to regulate runoff and reduce erosion, and maintain or improve water quality under various specified conditions within various portions of the drainage system. It may establish criteria for controlling peak flows and/or runoff volumes, for runoff detention and retention, or for pollution control, and may specify criteria for the relative elevations among various elements of the drainage system. Stormwater management is primarily concerned with limiting future flood damages and environmental impacts due to development, whereas flood control aims at reducing the extent of flooding that occurs under current condition.
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT:	A permit issued by the County in accordance with this Chapter after the approval and acceptance of the stormwater management plan. A permit must be acquired prior to initiating land development, land disturbing, or other activities which result in an increase in stormwater quantities, degradation of stormwater quality, or restriction of flow in any storm sewer system, open ditch or natural channel, stormwater easement, water body or wetland outlet within the County's jurisdiction.
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN:	A document containing the requirements identified by the County in Section 2 of this Chapter, that when implemented will provide solutions to stormwater management problems that may occur as a result of the proposed development or land disturbing activity. A stormwater management permit is not required as part of, but may be included in a stormwater management plan.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:	Physical facilities that collect, store, convey, and treat stormwater runoff in urban areas. These facilities normally include detention and retention facilities, streets, storm sewers, inlets, open channels, and special structures, such as inlets, manholes, and energy dissipaters.
STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN (SWPPP):	A joint stormwater and erosion and sediment control plan that is written as a prerequisite to obtaining an NPDES stormwater permit for construction activity, that when implemented will decrease soil erosion on a parcel of land and off site nonpoint pollution. It involves both temporary and permanent controls. The SWPPP, which draws its information from a stormwater management plan and is typically condensed, must be incorporated into the construction grading plans for the project.
STORMWATER RETENTION:	Storage designed to eliminate or reduce the frequency of subsequent surface discharge. Wet ponds are the most common type of retention storage (though wet ponds may also be used for detention storage).
STRUCTURE:	Anything manufactured, constructed, or erected which is normally attached to or positioned on land, including portable structures, earthen structures, roads, parking lots, and paved storage areas.
SUBDIVISION:	Any tract of land divided into building lots for private, public, commercial, industrial, etc., development for the purpose of sale, rent, or lease, including planned unit development.
SYSTEM CHARGE OR ASSESSMENT:	A charge for connecting an outlet to a regional stormwater management facility, typically a pond. The charge is normally assessed to recover the proportional cost of constructing a regional pond or stormwater treatment facility.
TEMPORARY PROTECTION:	Short-term methods employed to prevent erosion. Examples of such protection are straw, mulch, erosion control blankets, wood chips, and erosion netting.
UNDEVELOPED LAND:	Land that in its current state has not been impacted by significant land disturbance activities, annexed into a city or subdivided into multiple ownership lots and is typically zoned agricultural.
URBANIZED AREA:	The Adjusted Urbanized Boundary as determined by the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments, utilizing the Adjusted Urban Area Map in conjunction with the most current United States Census.
USER:	Any person who discharges, causes, or permits the discharge of stormwater into the County's stormwater management system.

VIOLATION:	The willful or negligent act of noncompliance with the conditions attached to an approved stormwater plan and/or permit, or any other provisions contained in this Chapter, subject to enforcement and penalty or noncompliance fees.
WATERCOURSE:	The natural path for the flow of water where there is sufficient natural and accustomed runoff to form and maintain a distinct and defined channel or an open channel facility that has been constructed for such purpose. This shall include any easements obtained for the purposes of runoff conveyance.
WATERS OF THE STATE:	All streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, waterways, wells, springs, reservoirs, aquifers, irrigation systems, drainage systems and all other bodies or accumulations of water, surface or underground, natural or artificial, public or private, which are contained within, flow through, or border upon the state or any portion thereof.
WATERSHED MASTER PLAN:	The plan that an Engineer/designer formulates to manage urban stormwater runoff for a particular project or drainage area. It typically addresses such subjects as characterization of the existing and future site development, land use, and grading plan, peak rates of runoff, flow duration, runoff volumes for various return frequencies, locations, criteria and sizes of detention or retention ponds and conveyances; runoff control features; land parcels, easement locations, opinions of probable costs, measures to enhance runoff quality, salient regulations, and how the plan addresses them, and consistency with secondary objectives such as public recreation, aesthetics, public safety, and groundwater recharge. It may be submitted to regulatory officials for their review for adoption.
WET POND:	A retention facility which includes a permanent pool of water used for the purposes of providing for the treatment of stormwater runoff.
WETLANDS:	<p>Lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems (excluding drainage ditch bottoms) where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this definition, wetlands must have the following three (3) attributes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A predominance of hydric soils; 2. Are inundated or saturated by the surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions; and 3. Under normal circumstances support the prevalence of such vegetation.

C. SCOPE:

1. Prohibited Discharges: It shall be considered an offense for any person to cause or allow a prohibited discharge into Waters of the State, including the County, City, or Watershed stormwater system, or any natural water.
2. Land Disturbing Activity Requiring A Stormwater Management Plan: Any person, firm, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, state agency, or political subdivision proposing subdivision or plat approval, a building permit or any land disturbance activity within the County must submit a stormwater management plan and/or a stormwater permit application to the County Planning and Zoning Director unless a waiver is provided in accordance with this Chapter.

No subdivision or plat approval shall be issued until a stormwater management plan or a waiver of the approval requirements has been obtained in strict conformance with the provisions of this Chapter. No building permit shall be issued until approval of a stormwater permit or a waiver of the permit requirements has been obtained in strict conformance with the provisions of this Chapter. No land shall be disturbed until the permit is approved by the County and conforms to the standards set forth herein.

A stormwater management plan may also be required in some situations as determined by the County Engineer (i.e., development within an existing subdivision with documented flooding problems associated with stormwater runoff, or development occurring on a large lot within a subdivision where a watershed master plan was previously developed).

Exemptions to the stormwater management plan and/or stormwater permit requirements of this Chapter include any part of a subdivision that is included in a plat that has been approved by the County Planning and Zoning Board and recorded with the register of deeds on or before the effective date of this Chapter. A stormwater permit for land disturbing activities on such properties may still be required, as determined by the County Engineer, and such activities are still subject to other compliance requirements in accordance with this Chapter:

- a. A stormwater management plan is not required for individual lots or properties located within a subdivision or plat for which a stormwater management plan has already been approved or in areas included within a watershed master plan area. This exemption is subject to the County Engineer's consideration and approval. Stormwater permits, however, are required subject to the other exemptions noted in this Chapter;
- b. A parcel for which a building permit has been approved on or before the effective date of this Chapter and an NPDES permit was not required;
- c. The installation of any of the following: a fence, sign, trees or shrubs, telephone and electric poles and other kinds of posts or poles, except where such uses are prohibited by easement or stormwater conveyance requirements;
- d. Any land disturbance activity not associated with building construction that will affect less than one acre of undeveloped land. A stormwater permit will not be

required unless the proposed project will result in sediments entering the stormwater system;

- e. Emergency work to protect life, limb, or property.
3. Land Disturbing Activity Involving the Construction of a Single-Family or Two-Family Dwelling: Construction of single-family or two-family dwellings must comply with in-place BMPs and any existing permitted SWPPP for the subdivision, including NPDES permit requirements. A stormwater permit and compliance with the single-family residential construction erosion/sediment control standards is also required.
4. Installation and Repair of Utility Service Lines:
- a. At project sites that require permit coverage where a utility contractor is not the site owner or operator, each utility contractor must comply with the provisions of the stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) for the project their construction activities will impact. Each utility contractor must ensure that their activities do not render ineffective, the erosion prevention and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) for the site. Should a utility contractor damage or render ineffective any temporary BMPs for the site, the utility contractor must repair or replace such BMPs within twenty four (24) hours upon discovery of the damaged BMP. Should a utility contractor damage or render ineffective any permanent BMPs for the site, the utility contractor must repair or replace such BMPs within seven (7) days of completion of utility installation on the site. The utility contractor will be responsible for a BMP that includes mulch with seed or sod and must provide maintenance, including any watering necessary to ensure the establishment of the sod or mulch with seed. The establishment period for a BMP that includes sod or mulch with seed shall be thirty (30) days, after which, if the area does not have an acceptable level of establishment, the utility contractor must re-sod or reseed until satisfactory establishment is achieved.
 - b. At project sites where a utility contractor is the site owner or operator, and the utility company disturbs one or more acres of soil for the purpose of installation of utility service lines, including, but not limited to, residential electric, gas, telephone and cable lines, the utility company must apply for permit coverage from the County and State prior to commencement of construction.
 - c. Utility contractors working in a street right of way to repair existing or install new utilities and disturbing less than one acre shall obtain a utility permit before commencing work. The utility contractor is required to provide appropriate inlet protection and sediment control during the course of the work so as to ensure the storm sewer system is protected from pollution. The utility contractor is also required to provide street sweeping as necessary to ensure that sediments resulting from their activity do not enter the stormwater system following construction. The street shall be swept within one working day of completion of utility installation on the site. All disturbed vegetation shall be replaced with mulch with seed or sod within seven (7) days of completion of utility installation on the site. The County will provide guidance regarding acceptable temporary protection BMPs for inlets

and methods to stabilize the exposed soil areas until they meet the definition of "final stabilization".

- d. **Waivers:** The County Engineer may waive any requirement of this Section upon making a finding that compliance with the requirement will involve an unnecessary hardship, and the waiver of such requirement is not contrary to the objectives in this Chapter. The County Engineer may require as a condition of the waiver, such dedication or construction, or agreement to dedicate or construct, as may be necessary to adequately meet the said standards and requirements.

D. MANAGEMENT OF SITE VEGETATION:

Any landowner shall provide for the installation and maintenance of vegetation on their property in accordance with the following criteria, regardless as to whether or not a stormwater management plan or stormwater permit has been approved or is necessary under this Chapter:

1. **Use of Impervious Surfaces:** No person shall apply items included in the definition of "prohibited discharge" on impervious surfaces or within stormwater drainage systems with impervious liners or conduits.
2. **Unimproved Land Areas:** Except for driveways, sidewalks, patios, areas occupied by structures, landscaped areas, or areas that have been otherwise improved, all areas shall be covered by plants or vegetative growth.
3. **Use Of Pervious Surfaces:** No person shall deposit grass clippings, leaves, or other vegetative materials, with the exception of normal mowing or weed control, within natural or manmade watercourses, wetlands, or within wetland buffer areas. No person shall deposit items included in the definition of "prohibited discharge" except as noted above.

Failure to comply with this Section shall constitute a violation and subject the landowner to the enforcement provisions, penalties and noncompliance fees outlined in Section 6 of this Chapter.

SECTION 2. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN; APPLICATION AND REVIEW

A. APPLICATION AND CONTENT:

A written stormwater management plan application shall be filed with the County Planning and Zoning Director as required by this Section. The application shall include a statement indicating the grounds upon which the approval is requested, that the proposed use is permitted in the underlying zoning district, and adequate evidence showing the proposed use will conform to the standards set forth in this Section and the "Minnesota Stormwater Manual" (manual). Prior to applying for approval of a stormwater management plan, it is recommended that the applicant have the stormwater management plan reviewed by any affected public agencies. While it is not necessary it is desirable in some cases to combine the stormwater management plan and stormwater permit submittals in a single application.

Two (2) sets of legible copies of the drawings and required information shall be submitted to the County Planning and Zoning Director and shall be accompanied by a receipt from the County to document the

payment of all required fees for processing and approval as set forth in Subsection (B) of this Section. Plans shall be prepared to a scale appropriate to the site of the project and suitable for performing the review.

At a minimum, the stormwater management plan shall contain the information outlined in the manual. A written stormwater management report discussing the pre- and post-development hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, erosion and sedimentation control during and after construction, protective measures for proposed and existing structures, and water quality concerns shall also be provided. The contents of this report shall be in accordance with the recommended format in the manual. For additional information refer to Section 3 of this Chapter.

B. APPLICATION FEE:

A processing and approval fee adopted by the County Board shall accompany all applications for stormwater management plan approval.

C. PROCESS:

A stormwater management plan meeting the requirements of this section shall be submitted to the County Planning and Zoning Director. The plan will then be forwarded to the County Engineer for review and to determine its compliance with the standards as outlined in Section 3 of this Chapter. The County Engineer shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny the stormwater management plan. The County Engineer shall communicate any decision with the County Planning and Zoning Director. Prior to initiating construction as outlined in the stormwater management plan, the applicant must also obtain a stormwater permit.

D. DURATION:

Approval of any plan submitted under the provisions of this Chapter shall expire one year after the date of approval unless construction has commenced in accordance with the plan. However, if prior to the expiration of approval, the applicant makes a written request to the County Planning and Zoning Director for an extension of time to commence construction setting forth the reasons for the requested extension, the County Planning and Zoning Director may grant one extension of not greater than one year. The County Planning and Zoning Director shall acknowledge receipt of any request and shall make a decision on the extension within thirty (30) days of receipt. Any plan may be revised following the same procedure for an original approval. Provided, the County Planning and Zoning Director may waive all or part of the application fee if the revision is minor. Any denied or expired application may be resubmitted with additional information addressing the concerns contained within the denial or the reason why the original plan was allowed to expire. The resubmitted application shall be subject to all applicable fees and review time lines as if it were a new application.

E. CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

A stormwater management plan may be approved subject to compliance with conditions reasonable and necessary to ensure that the requirements contained in this Chapter are met. Such conditions may, among other matters, limit the size, kind or character of the proposed development, require the construction of structures, drainage facilities, storage basins and other facilities, require replacement of vegetation, establish required monitoring procedures, stage the work over time, require alteration of the site design to ensure proper buffering, require the acquisition or dedication of certain lands or easements. The County Engineer may specify special requirements or conditions for specific major or

minor watersheds within the County's jurisdiction. The nature of these requirements will be subject to the unique environmental and natural resource environment of each sub-watershed. Approval of a plan shall bind the applicant to perform and comply with all the requirements and conditions of the plan prior to commencing or concurrent with any land disturbing activities.

SECTION 3. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN; APPROVAL STANDARDS

A. GENERAL:

This Section describes the approval standards used to evaluate a proposed stormwater management plan. The County Engineer shall not approve a stormwater management plan which fails to meet these standards. Other applicable standards, such as state and federal standards, shall also apply. If the standards of different agencies conflict, the more restrictive standards shall apply.

It shall be the applicant's responsibility to obtain any required permits from other governmental agencies having any jurisdictional authority over the work to be performed. Typically, such agencies include, but are not limited to, the Buffalo Red River Watershed District (BRRWD), the City of Moorhead, the City of Dilworth, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and others.

B. STORMWATER MANUAL:

The "Minnesota Stormwater Manual" (manual) contains the principal standards and design criteria for developing an effective and acceptable stormwater management plan. The manual contains detailed criteria for hydrologic evaluations, the design of stormwater management system facility components, water quality protection standards, and instructions for the development of an erosion and sedimentation control plan. Upon request, the County will provide requirements for easements and rights of way, standard forms to be used, and standard construction details approved by the County.

C. MODELS/METHODOLOGIES/COMPUTATIONS:

Other than those outlined in the manual, any hydrologic models and/or design methodologies used to determine runoff conditions and to analyze stormwater management structures and facilities, shall be approved in advance by the County Engineer. All stormwater management plans, drawings, specifications, and computations for stormwater management facilities submitted for review shall be signed by a professional engineer registered in the State of Minnesota. This requirement will be met as part of a properly-completed stormwater management plan.

D. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CRITERIA FOR PERMANENT FACILITIES:

Post construction stormwater management will be required to utilize any combinations of BMP's with the highest preference given to Green Infrastructure techniques and practices (e.g., infiltration, evapotranspiration, reuse/harvesting, conservation design, urban forestry, green roofs, etc.), necessary to meet the following conditions on the site of a construction activity to the Maximum Extent Practical:

1. Pre- Versus Post-hydrological Response of Site (New Development Projects): An applicant shall install or construct, on or for the proposed land disturbing activity or development activity, all

stormwater management facilities necessary to manage runoff such that there are no net increases from pre-project conditions (on an annual average basis) of:

- a. Stormwater discharge volume, unless precluded by the stormwater management limitations listed in this section of the ordinance.
 - b. Stormwater discharges of Total Suspended Solids (TSS).
 - c. Stormwater discharges of Total Phosphorus.
2. Pre- Versus Post-hydrological Response of Site (Redevelopment Projects):
An applicant shall install or construct, on or for the proposed redevelopment project, all stormwater management facilities necessary to manage runoff such that there is a net reduction from pre-post conditions (on an annual average basis) of:
- a. Stormwater discharge volume, unless precluded by the stormwater management limitations listed later in this section of the ordinance.
 - b. Stormwater discharges of Total Suspended Solids (TSS)
 - c. Stormwater discharges of Total Phosphorus

3. Regional Detention or Stormwater Management Systems

For regional detention or stormwater management system, the County Engineer shall recommend a proposed system charge or assessment to be approved by the County Board based upon an approved watershed master plan and an analysis of required drainage systems, projected costs and flood protection benefits provided to those properties directly or indirectly impacted by the regional detention or stormwater management system.

4. Natural Features of Site: The applicant shall give consideration to reducing the need for stormwater management system facilities by incorporating the use of natural topography and land cover such as wetlands, ponds, natural swales and depressions as they exist before development to the degree that they can accommodate the additional water flow without compromising the integrity or quality of these natural features.

5. Stormwater Management Strategies: The following stormwater management practices shall be investigated when developing a stormwater management plan:

- a. Natural infiltration of precipitation and runoff on site, if suitable soil profiles can be created during site grading. The purpose of this strategy is to encourage the development of a stormwater management plan that encourages natural infiltration. This includes providing as much natural or vegetated area on the site as possible, minimizing impervious surfaces, and directing runoff to vegetated areas rather than onto adjoining streets, storm sewers and ditches;
- b. Flow attenuation by use of open vegetated swales and natural depressions;
- c. Stormwater detention facilities;
- d. Stormwater retention facilities (on a case by case basis); and
- e. Other facilities requested by the County Engineer.

A combination of successive practices may be used to achieve the applicable minimum control requirements specified. Justification shall be provided by the applicant for the method selected.

6. Stormwater Management Limitations and Exceptions

The use of infiltration techniques to achieve the conditions for post-construction stormwater management will be prohibited when the infiltration structural stormwater BMP will receive discharges from, or be constructed in the following areas:

- a. Where industrial facilities are not authorized to infiltrate industrial stormwater under an NPDES/SDS Industrial Stormwater Permit issued by the MPCA.
- b. Where vehicle fueling and maintenance occur.
- c. With less than three (3) feet of separation distance from the bottom of the infiltration system to the elevation of the seasonally saturated soils or the top of the bedrock.
- d. Where high levels of contaminants in soil or groundwater will be mobilized by the infiltrating stormwater.

Infiltration techniques to achieve the conditions for post-construction stormwater management will also be further restricted, without higher engineering review, to sufficiently provide a functioning treatment system and prevent adverse impacts to groundwater, when constructed in the following areas:

- a. Within predominantly Hydrologic Soil Group D (clay) soils.
- b. Within 1,000 feet up-gradient, or 100 feet down-gradient of active karst features.
- c. Within a Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) as defined in Minn. R. 4720.5100, subp. 13.
- d. Where soil infiltration rates are more than 8.3 inches per hour.

The applicant must also be able to show on linear projects that mitigating circumstances made acquisition of additional right-of-way impractical to preclude the installation of volume control BMP's that meet the conditions for post construction stormwater management in the section above.

7. Stormwater Discharge Volume Exceptions: The applicant may be allowed to have lesser volume control on the site of the original construction activity only under the following circumstances:

- a. The owner and/or operator of a construction activity is precluded from infiltrating stormwater through a designed system due to any of the infiltration related limitations described above, and
- b. The owner and/or operator of the construction activity implements, to the maximum extent possible, volume reduction techniques, other than infiltration, (e.g., evapotranspiration, reuse/harvesting, conservation design, green roofs, etc.) on the site of the original construction activity that reduces stormwater discharge volume, but may not meet the conditions for post construction stormwater management as noted above.

7. Adequacy of Outlets: The adequacy of any outlet used as a discharge point for proposed stormwater management system must be assessed and documented to the satisfaction of the County Engineer. To the extent practicable, hydraulic capacities of downstream natural channels, storm sewer systems, or streets shall be evaluated to determine if they have sufficient conveyance capacity to receive and accommodate post-development runoff discharges and volumes without causing increased property damages or any increase in the established base

flood elevation. If a floodplain or floodway has not been established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the applicant shall provide a documented analysis and estimate of the base flood elevation as certified by a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Minnesota. In addition, projected velocities in downstream natural or manmade channels shall not exceed that which is reasonably anticipated to cause erosion unless protective measures acceptable to the County Engineer are approved and installed as part of the stormwater management plan. The assessment of outlet adequacy shall be included in the stormwater management plan.

8. Stormwater Detention/Retention Facilities: Stormwater detention or retention facilities proposed to be constructed in the stormwater management plan shall be designed according to the most current technology as reflected in the Minnesota Stormwater Manual.
9. Mitigating Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Total Phosphorus (TP): When stormwater discharges of TSS and/or TP are not able to be addressed on the site of the original construction activity, the applicant must address them through mitigation and, at a minimum, will ensure the following requirements are met:
 - a. Mitigation project areas are selected in the following order of preference:
 1. Locations that yield benefits to the same receiving water that receives runoff from the original construction activity
 2. Locations within the same Department of Natural Resources (DNR) catchment area as the original construction activity.
 3. Locations in the next adjacent DNR catchment area upstream.
 4. Locations anywhere within Clay County.
 - b. Mitigation projects must involve the creation of new structural stormwater BMP's or the retrofit of existing structural BMP's, or the use of a properly designed regional structural stormwater BMP.
 - c. Routine maintenance of structural stormwater BMP's previously required by this ordinance cannot be used to meet mitigation requirements for future applications.
 - d. Mitigation projects will be completed within 24 months after the start of the original construction activity.
 - e. The applicant will provide documentation stating who the responsible party is for long-term maintenance on all mitigation projects.
 - f. Clay County will not complete any long term maintenance of mitigation projects.

E. OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION:

All stormwater management systems shall be designed to minimize the need for maintenance, to provide easy vehicle (typically 8 feet or wider) and personnel access for maintenance purposes, and to be structurally sound. All stormwater management systems shall have a plan of operation and maintenance that assures continued effective removal of pollutants carried in stormwater runoff. The County Engineer may inspect all public and private stormwater management systems at any time. Inspection records will be kept on file at the County Engineer's office. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any necessary easements or other property interests to allow access to the stormwater management system for inspection and maintenance purposes. The County Engineer shall retain enforcement powers for assuring adequate operation and maintenance activities through permit

conditions, penalties, noncompliance orders and fees.

The County Engineer or his/her designated representative shall inspect all stormwater management systems during construction, during the first year of operation and at least once every five (5) years thereafter. The County will keep all inspection records on file for a period of three (3) years beyond the NPDES permit period.

F. EASEMENTS:

Easements may be required as conditions to the approval of a stormwater management plan and/or permit. If a stormwater management plan involves directing some or all of the site's runoff to a drainage easement, the applicant or his designated representative shall obtain from the property owners any necessary easements or other property interests concerning the flowing of such water.

G. PLAN APPLICABILITY:

A stormwater management plan approval issued under this Section runs with the land and is a condition of plat or development approval. Any landowner or subsequent landowner of any parcel within the plat or development area must comply with the plan or any approval, condition, revision or modification of the plan. Failure to comply with this plan shall constitute a violation and subject the permittee, developer, and/or landowner to the enforcement provisions, penalties and noncompliance fees.

H. PLAN AMENDMENTS:

Stormwater management plans may be amended only by a written request submitted to the County Engineer. This request shall contain the reason for the change and documentation related to any additional change in projected impacts, which may result from amendment approval. Amendment requests submitted prior to final approval of a plan application shall be considered part of the original submittal. Amendment requests filed after plan approval shall be considered following the same procedures as if it were a new application and subject to all applicable fees and review periods. The County Engineer may waive all or part of the fees if the amendment is minor.

SECTION 4. STORMWATER PERMITS

A. PERMITS REQUIRED:

It is unlawful to initiate any land development activity, land disturbing activity, or other activities which may result in an increase in stormwater quantities, degradation of stormwater quality, or restriction of flow in any storm sewer system, open ditch or natural channel, stormwater easement, water body, or wetland outlet within the jurisdiction of the County, without having first complied with the terms of this Section. Other activities include those outlined in Section 1(C) of this Chapter. For any land disturbing projects greater than one acre, a stormwater permit shall be required.

1. **Permit Application:** All persons subject to meeting the requirements and needing to obtain a stormwater permit shall complete and file with the County Planning and Zoning Director an application in the form prescribed and accompanied by a fee established by the County Board. The permit application may need to be accompanied by a stormwater management plan as prescribed under section B of this Chapter, if such a plan has not been previously approved.

Permit applications may be denied if the applicant is not in compliance on another stormwater permit currently in effect.

2. **Stormwater Permit:** After review, the County Engineer shall approve or deny the permit. Activities that disturb one acre of land or more must also obtain a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency NPDES General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity. Commencing earthwork on a project prior to plan or permit approval is considered a violation of this Chapter.
3. **Permit Delays:** The County Engineer may withhold granting approval of a stormwater permit until all issues associated with the site are resolved to the satisfaction of the County Engineer. Permits may be conditioned with delays such that work cannot begin until a specified date or until after the site is inspected.
4. **Permit Conditions:** Permits issued are subject to all provisions of this section and all other applicable regulations, user charges and fees established by the County Board. Permits may contain, but are not limited to, any of the following conditions:
 - a. Limits on the maximum rate of allowable stormwater discharge;
 - b. Requirements for water quality of stormwater discharge;
 - c. Requirements for the installation, operation and maintenance of stormwater facilities including detention/retention or other treatment facilities;
 - d. Requirements for erosion and sediment control, including measures to be implemented and other procedures necessary to protect the stormwater system;
 - e. Compliance schedule;
 - f. Requirements for notification to and acceptance by the County Engineer of any land disturbing activities which have the potential for increasing the rate of stormwater discharge resulting in degradation of stormwater quality;
 - g. Easements as outlined in Section 3(F) of this Chapter; and
 - h. Other conditions as deemed appropriate by the County Engineer to ensure compliance with this Chapter.
5. **Permit Duration:** Permits must be issued for a time period specified by the County Engineer. The applicant, if necessary, shall apply for permit renewal a minimum of ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the applicant's existing permit. The terms and conditions of a permit are subject to modification by the County Engineer during the term of the permit as set forth in subsection A(6) of this Section. Any denied or expired application may be resubmitted with additional information addressing the concerns contained within the denial or the reason why the original permit was allowed to expire. The resubmitted application shall be subject to all applicable fees and review time lines as if it were a new application.
6. **Permit Modification:** The County Engineer for just cause upon thirty (30) days' notice may modify stormwater permits. Just cause shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Promulgation of new federal, state or local regulatory requirements;
- b. Changes in the requirements of this Chapter;
- c. Changes in the process used by the permittee or changes in discharge rate, volume, or character; and
- d. Changes in the design or capability of receiving stormwater systems.

The applicant must be informed of any proposed changes in the permit at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of change. Any changes or new conditions in the permit shall include a reasonable time schedule for compliance.

7. **Permit Amendments:** Stormwater permits may be amended (by applicant) only by a written request submitted by the permittee to the County Engineer. This request shall contain the reason for the change and documentation related to any additional impacts which may result from amendment approval. Amendment requests submitted prior to issuance of a stormwater permit shall be considered part of the original submittal. Amendment requests filed after permit approval shall be considered and reviewed under the same procedures and guidelines used for the stormwater permit applications under this section. Depending on the extent of the amendment, the County Engineer may waive any additional fees for a permit amendment review.
8. **Permit Transfer:** A permit runs with the property it covers, until the permitted activities are completed, and is transferable to new landowners in its entirety or by parcel, with each parcel being subject to the permit and any conditions which apply to that parcel. Land transfers must be reported to the County Engineer within seven (7) days of the transfer. This section refers to County-issued permits and does not release the applicant or owner from transfer requirements of an NPDES permit including, but not limited to, a notice of termination/permit modification.
9. **Monitoring Facilities:** The County Engineer may require the applicant to provide and operate at the applicant's expense a monitoring facility to allow inspection, sampling, and flow measurements of each stormwater system component. Where at all possible, the monitoring facility shall be located on the applicant's property as opposed to being located on public rights of way. Ample room must be allowed for accurate flow measuring and sampling and the facility shall be kept in a safe and proper operating condition.
10. **Inspection:** The County Engineer may inspect the stormwater management system of any permittee to determine compliance with the requirements of this Chapter. The applicant shall promptly allow the County and their authorized representatives, upon presentation of credentials to:
 - a. Enter upon the permitted site for the purpose of obtaining information, examination of records, conducting investigations, inspections or surveys;
 - b. Bring such equipment upon the permitted site as is necessary to conduct such inspections, surveys and investigations;
 - c. Examine and copy any books, papers, records, or memoranda pertaining to activities or records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permitted site;

- d. Inspect the stormwater pollution control measures; and/or
- e. Sample and monitor any items or activities pertaining to stormwater pollution control measures.

Any temporary or permanent obstruction to the safe and easy access of such an inspection shall be promptly removed upon the inspector's request. The cost of providing such access shall be borne by the permittee.

- 11. Inspections of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan's Measures: At a minimum, such inspections shall be done weekly by the permittee (general contractor, developer or the developer's designated representative), and within twenty four (24) hours after every storm or snowmelt event large enough to result in runoff from the site (approximately 0.5 inch or more in 24 hours). At a minimum, these inspections shall be done during active construction.

B. CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS:

- 1. The plans and specifications prepared for the construction of the stormwater management system must be:
 - a. Consistent with the Stormwater Management Plan approved by the County Engineer, including any special provisions or conditions;
 - b. In conformance with the requirements of Clay County's specifications, "Minnesota Stormwater Manual" and any other necessary permits required and issued by other governmental agencies;
 - c. Signed by a professional engineer registered in the State of Minnesota;
 - d. Submitted to the County Engineer for approval; and
 - e. Approved by the County Engineer prior to commencing construction.
- 2. The construction grading and erosion/sediment control plans, in a format acceptable to the County Engineer, shall contain a drawing or drawings delineating the features incorporated into the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) including details of perimeter protection, construction phasing, storm drain inlet protection, erosion control measures, temporary and final stabilization measures, including all BMPs. In addition the construction specifications shall contain technical provisions describing erosion, sedimentation, and water control measures to be utilized during and after construction as well as to define the entities responsible for the installation and maintenance of the BMPs. The project SWPPP must be incorporated into the construction specification documents.

C. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES:

Construction operations must at a minimum comply with any applicable federal or state permit and SWPPP in addition to the following best management practices:

1. Site Dewatering: Water pumped from the site shall be treated by temporary sedimentation basins, grit chambers, sand filters, upflow chambers, hydrocyclones, soil concentrators or other appropriate controls as deemed necessary. Water may not be discharged in a manner that causes erosion, sedimentation, or flooding on the site, on downstream properties, in the receiving channels, or in any wetland.
2. Waste and Material Disposal: All waste and unused building materials (including garbage, debris, cleaning wastes, wastewater, petroleum based products, paints, toxic materials, or other hazardous materials) shall be properly disposed of off-site and shall not be allowed to be carried by runoff into a receiving channel, storm sewer system, or wetland.
3. Tracking Management: Each site shall have roads, access drives and parking areas of sufficient width, length and surfacing to minimize sediment from being tracked onto public or private roadways. Any material deposited by vehicles or other construction equipment onto a public or private road shall be removed (not by flushing) before the end of each working day.
4. Water Quality Protection: The construction contractor, including the general contractor and all subcontractors, shall be required to control oil and fuel spills and chemical discharges to prevent such spills or discharges from entering any watercourse, sump, sewer system, water body, or wetland.
5. Site Erosion and Sedimentation Control: Construction operations must include erosion and sedimentation control measures meeting accepted design criteria, standards and specifications contained in the "Minnesota Stormwater Manual" or other standards determined by the County Engineer.
6. Concrete Washout Area: All liquids and solid waste generated by concrete washout operations must be contained in a leak proof containment facility or impermeable liner. A compacted clay liner that does not allow washout liquids to enter groundwater is considered an impermeable liner. A sign must be installed adjacent to each washout facility to inform concrete equipment operators to utilize the proper facilities.

D. FINAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Upon completion of all required construction activities, the permittee shall submit to the County Engineer a final stormwater management plan to document any changes or material modifications to the original stormwater management plan concept. The final stormwater management plan shall contain record drawings showing the final configuration for all improvements as constructed. A professional engineer registered in the State of Minnesota shall certify the final stormwater management plan and record drawings. If no significant or material changes occurred between the approved plan and final construction, the record drawings need not be submitted to the County Engineer. The permittee, however, is responsible to retain copies of said drawings and provide them to the County Engineer upon request. Failure to provide these drawings upon written request constitutes a violation of this Chapter.

SECTION 5. SUSPENSIONS, REVOCATIONS AND STOP WORK ORDERS

A. STORMWATER VIOLATIONS AND REPORTING:

1. Stormwater management plan, stormwater permit, and non-permit related stormwater violations include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Commencing site grading or preparation work without first having obtained an NPDES stormwater permit for construction activity, or a County stormwater permit.
 - b. Noncompliance with the requirements or conditions attached to an approved SWPPP of an NPDES stormwater permit for construction activity, stormwater management plan, a county stormwater permit, or other standards established by the County Engineer, under authority of the County.
 - c. The causing or allowing of a prohibited discharge in the county stormwater system, a natural watercourse, stormwater easement, stream or river.
 - d. Failure to remove sediments transported or tracked onto county streets by vehicles or construction traffic by the end of each working day.
 - e. Failure to install and maintain the erosion control measures (BMPs) on a construction site as outlined in the approved stormwater permit, SWPPP and its amendments, or other standards established by the County Engineer.
 - f. Other violations or issues as noted or described throughout this Chapter.
2. The County Engineer shall document the reporting of a violation in writing. Such violations may be obtained via a site inspection or a public complaint followed by a site inspection. At a minimum the complaint file shall contain the name and address of the owner, date, time and nature of the violation as well as other information as deemed necessary to document site conditions, including photos and personal conversation records. In the case of a public complaint the file shall also, if voluntarily provided, contain the name, address and phone number of the individual filing the complaint. In addition, the complaint file shall contain records documenting subsequent site inspections, compliance actions and a memo outlining the determination of the County Engineer and any enforcement action taken and/or any noncompliance fees levied.

B. EMERGENCY SUSPENSION:

The County Engineer may for cause order the suspension of a stormwater management plan, or a stormwater permit when the County Engineer determines that an actual or threatened discharge presents or may present an imminent or substantial danger to the health or welfare of persons downstream, or substantial danger to the environment. If such permits are suspended, all work in the area covered by the permit shall cease immediately. If any person is notified of such suspension and then fails to comply voluntarily with the suspension order, the County shall commence whatever steps are necessary to obtain compliance. The County Engineer may reinstate the stormwater management plan, or stormwater permit upon proof of compliance with all plan or permit conditions. The County Engineer may also order the immediate suspension of all work if a person or entity is conducting an activity for which a permit is needed without first obtaining the appropriate permit. The suspension shall remain in effect until the required permit(s) is obtained.

Whenever the County Engineer orders the suspension of a plan or permit and/or orders all work to stop pursuant to the emergency provisions of this Section, the County Engineer shall serve notice on the landowner and/or permittee personally, or by registered or certified mail. The landowner and/or permittee has the right to an informal hearing before the County Engineer upon request made in writing and filed with the County Engineer. The informal hearing must be held within five (5) days of the request. Following the hearing, the County Engineer may affirm, modify or rescind the order.

Any person dissatisfied with an order the County Engineer issued pursuant to this Section may request a hearing pursuant to Subsection (E) of this Section by filing a written request for a hearing with the County Engineer, within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the order. The hearing must be held within ten (10) days of receipt of the request. A request for a hearing filed pursuant to this section does not stay the order while the hearing is pending.

C. NON-EMERGENCY REVOCATION OF A PERMIT:

1. A stormwater management plan or stormwater permit may be revoked following notice. An opportunity for a hearing in accordance with Subsections (D) and (E) of this Section will be provided. The County Engineer may revoke a plan or permit for cause, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Violation of any terms or conditions of the applicable plan or permit;
 - b. False statements on any required reports and applications;
 - c. Obtaining a plan or permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts; or
 - d. Any other violation of this Chapter or related ordinance.
2. The County Engineer may revoke a stormwater management plan or stormwater permit and order a temporary work stoppage to bring a project into compliance. Notice of such an order shall be given and a hearing opportunity provided in accordance with Subsections (D) and (E) of this Section. Under a revoked plan or permit no additional permit approvals (i.e., utility, etc.) shall be issued for any properties within the area included within the plan or permit boundaries until approved by the County Engineer. In addition the County may deny new permits (i.e., stormwater, utility, etc.) to the permittee or landowner in violation for projects in other locations until current permits are brought into compliance.

D. NOTIFICATION:

Whenever the County Engineer finds that any person has violated or is violating this Chapter, stormwater management plan or stormwater permit and/or its conditions, or any prohibition, limitation or requirement contained herein, the County Engineer shall serve upon such person a written notice stating the nature of the violation. Within seven (7) days of the date of the notice, unless a shorter time frame is set by the County Engineer due to the nature of the violation, a plan satisfactory to the Engineer for correction thereof must be submitted to the County Engineer. If a satisfactory plan is not submitted in a timely manner, or the terms of such plan are not followed, the County Engineer may order all work in the affected area to cease until submittal of such a plan and compliance with the plan is happening. If

a person disagrees with the determination of the County Engineer, that person, within fifteen (15) days of the order of the County Engineer, may request a hearing as provided in Subsection (E) of this Section.

E. HEARING:

If a person requests a hearing to contest the order of the County Engineer, a notice of hearing must be served on the person appealing the order, specifying the time and place of a hearing to be held regarding the order of the County Engineer, and directing the person appealing to show cause why the order of the County Engineer should not be upheld. Unless the Engineer has suspended the permit or ordered work to stop pursuant to Subsection (B) of this Section, any order stopping all work shall be stayed until after the hearing. The notice must be served personally or by registered or certified mail at least five (5) days before the hearing. The evidence submitted at the hearing shall be considered by the County Administrator or his/her designee, who then shall either uphold, modify, or rescind the order of the County Engineer. An appeal of the decision may be taken to the district court according to law. Provided, that if the County Administrator or his/her designee upholds the order stopping work, such work suspension shall not be stayed as a result of the appeal to the district court.

F. LEGAL ACTION:

The discharge of deposited or eroded materials onto public rights of way or public storm sewer systems within the County of Clay shall be considered an offense and may result in an order to remove such materials. Removal of such materials shall be at the landowner's and/or permittee's expense based on the properties from which they originated. The landowner and/or permittee shall have three (3) days after receiving the notice to remove these materials. If such materials are not removed, others may remove them under the County Engineer's direction and any associated costs shall be the responsibility of the landowner or permittee and, if unpaid within ninety (90) days, may be recommended for assessment action by the County Board against property of the violator.

If any person commences any land disturbing activities which result in increased stormwater quantity or stormwater quality degradation into the County's stormwater management system contrary to the provisions of this Chapter, federal or state requirements or any order of the County Engineer, the County Attorney may commence action for appropriate legal and/or equitable relief including administrative or criminal penalties.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT

A. ENFORCEMENT, PENALTY AND NONCOMPLIANCE FEES:

Any person who is found to have violated an order of the County Engineer made in accordance with this Section, or who has failed to comply with any provision of this Chapter and the orders, rules, regulations and permits issued hereunder, is guilty of a violation. Each day on which a non-compliance occurs or continues to exist shall be deemed a separate and distinct violation, punishable as proscribed by the Clay County Administrative Penalty Policy (Clay County Ordinance 2010-3). All land use and stormwater permits may be suspended until the applicant has corrected the violation. Re-inspection fees, which may also be imposed for violation of this Chapter, shall be approved by the County Board.

B. COSTS OF DAMAGE:

Any person violating any of the provisions of this Chapter or who initiates an activity which causes a deposit, obstruction, or damage or other impairment to the county's stormwater management system is liable to the County for any expense, loss, or damage caused by the violation or the discharge. The County may bill the person violating this Chapter the costs for any cleaning, repair or replacement work caused by the violation of stormwater discharge, and if unpaid within ninety (90) days may result in assessment of such costs against the violator's property.

C. COUNTY ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS:

In addition to the civil penalties provided herein, the County may recover reasonable attorney fees, court costs, court reporter fees, and other expenses of litigation by appropriate action against the person found to have violated this Chapter or the orders, rules, regulations and permits issued hereunder.

D. FALSIFYING INFORMATION:

Any person who knowingly makes any false statements, representations, or certification in any applicable record, report, plan, permit or other document filed or required to be maintained pursuant to this Chapter, or who knowingly falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring devices or method required under this Chapter shall be guilty of an violation, punishable as proscribed by the Clay County Administrative Penalty Policy (Clay County Ordinance 2010-3).

E. PENALTIES:

Any person violating any provision of this Chapter, in addition to other sanctions set forth above, may be charged with a criminal misdemeanor, and if convicted may be penalized in accordance with the provisions of section 1-4-1 of this Code, or alternatively, may be charged with an administrative violation pursuant to the Clay County Administrative Policy (Clay County Ordinance 2010-3).

**SECTION 7. STORMWATER UTILITY AND
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FEE SYSTEM**

A. FINDINGS:

1. The County maintains a system of underground and surface stormwater management facilities including, but not limited to, inlets, conduits, manholes, channels, ditches, drainage easements, retention and detention basins, and other components as well as natural waterways.
2. The stormwater system in the County needs regular maintenance and improvements.

3. Water quality of the Red River of the North can be degraded due to erosion and the discharge of nutrients, metals, oil, grease, toxic materials, and other substances into and through the stormwater system.
4. The public health, safety, and welfare can be adversely affected by periodic poor water quality within the Red River of the North and flooding that results from inadequate management of both the quality and quantity of stormwater.
5. All real property in the County's Urbanized Area either uses or benefits from the maintenance of the stormwater system.
6. The extent of use of the stormwater system by each property is dependent on factors that influence runoff, including land use and the amount of impervious surface on the property.
7. The costs of improving, maintaining, operating, and monitoring the stormwater system should be allocated, to the extent practicable, to all property owners based on the impact of runoff from the impervious areas of their property on the stormwater management system.
8. Management of the stormwater system to protect the public health, safety, and welfare requires adequate revenues, and it is in the interest of the public to finance stormwater management adequately with a user charge system that is reasonable and equitable so that each user of the system pays to the extent to which he contributes to the need for it.

B. ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET:

The County Engineer, under the supervision and authority delegated by the County Administrator, shall advise the County Administrator and County Board on matters related to the stormwater management program and to make recommendations to the County Administrator and County Board concerning the adoption of ordinances, resolutions, policies, guidelines and regulations in furtherance of the objectives of the stormwater management program. The County Engineer shall undertake the following activities to implement a stormwater management program:

1. Prepare studies, acquire data, prepare master plans, analyze policies or undertake such other planning and analyses as may be needed to address concerns related to stormwater within the County and to further the objectives of the stormwater management program, and to undertake activities designed to communicate, educate and involve the public and citizens in addressing these issues or in understanding and abiding by the elements of the stormwater management program.
2. Design, construct, operate, maintain, expand, or replace any element or elements of the public storm sewer system, including recommending the acquisition of easements by eminent domain, and recommending acquisition of title or easements other than by eminent domain, over any real or personal property that is part of, will become part of, or will protect the public storm sewer system, or is necessary or convenient for the implementation of the stormwater management program.
3. Regulate, establish standards, review, inspect the design, construction or operation and maintenance of any stormwater management system that is under the control of private owners, whether or not such systems are required or intended for dedication to the public sewer system,

when such systems have the potential to impact, enhance, damage, obstruct or affect the operation and maintenance of the public storm sewer system or the implementation of the stormwater management program.

4. Regulate, establish standards, review and inspect land use or property owner activities when such activities have the potential to affect the quantity, timing, velocity, erosive forces, quality, environmental value or other characteristics of stormwater which would flow into the stormwater management system or in any way affect the implementation of the stormwater management program.
5. Undertake any activities related to stormwater management when such activities are recommended by applicable federal, state or local agencies or when such activities are required by any permit, regulation, ordinance, or statute governing stormwater or water quality concerns.
6. Analyze the cost of services and benefits provided by the stormwater utility and the structure of fees, service charges, credits, and other revenues on an annual basis and make recommendations to the County Board regarding same.
7. Undertake authorized expenditures as required to implement these activities, including all costs of capital improvements, operations and maintenance, debt services, and other costs as required.

SECTION 8. PRIVATE CONNECTION TO A PUBLIC STORM SEWER

A. STORM SEWER CONNECTIONS:

1. Permit, General: No unauthorized persons shall uncover, make any connections with or opening into, use, alter or disturb any public storm sewer or appurtenance thereof without first obtaining a utility and stormwater permit from the County.
2. Permit Application: The owner or an agent of the owner shall make application on a form furnished by the County. The permit application shall be supplemented by any plans, specifications or other information considered pertinent. A permit and inspection fee shall be paid to the County at the time the application is filed.
3. Connection Costs: All costs and expense incident to the installation and connection of the private storm sewer shall be borne by the owner. The owner shall indemnify the County from any loss or damage that may directly or indirectly be occasioned by the installation of the storm sewer.
4. Construction: The size, slope, alignment, materials of construction of a storm sewer and the methods to be used in excavating, placing of the pipe, jointing, testing and backfilling the trench shall all conform to the requirements of building and plumbing codes or other applicable rules and regulations of the County and the current regulations of the State of Minnesota. In the absence of code provisions or in application thereof, the materials and procedures set forth in appropriate specifications of the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) as approved by authorized county personnel shall apply. All connections must be locatable in accordance with this code, Minnesota Rules § 7560, and other applicable rules and regulations of the County. Upon completion, the owner must provide record drawings of the installation.

5. **Inspection:** The applicant for the utility permit shall notify the County when the private storm sewer is ready for inspection and connection to the public storm sewer. The connection shall be made under the supervision of authorized County personnel.
6. **Erosion Control:** All excavations must use best management practices (BMP) to prevent sediment from entering the storm sewer system.
7. **Safety and Restoration:** All excavations for storm sewer installations shall be adequately guarded with barricades and lights so as to protect the public from hazard. Streets, sidewalks, parkways and other public property disturbed in the course of the work shall be restored to their original condition or to a better condition in a manner satisfactory to the County Engineer. A Utility permit shall be required for all excavations made in the areas of county streets, sidewalks, parkways and other paved areas.
8. **Maintenance Responsibility:** It shall be the responsibility of the owner to maintain the private storm sewer from their property line up to and including the point where it connects or discharges to the county storm sewer system, whether it is a direct connection to a storm sewer or discharges directly to a stormwater pond. This includes, but is not limited to, damaged pipe and appurtenances, bank erosion, sinkholes around the private storm sewer pipe, and the removal of any erodible materials that have entered the County storm sewer system from the private sewer connection. If the maintenance of the storm sewer requires excavation of the public right of way, the owner shall notify the Engineering department and obtain a Utility permit prior to excavating. The contractor hired by the owner to repair the storm sewer shall follow the other requirements of Subsection A(4) of this section.

SECTION 9: URBANIZED AREA MAP